Overpayments to Contractors.

115. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether there are any overpayment to contractors under the Public Works Department during the last three years;

(b) if so, who were the contractors to whom such payments were made and what is the name of the work in respect of which overpayments were made;

(c) what steps were taken to recover the same and how much was realised in each case;

(d) who is responsible for the overpayment in each case?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) There were several minor overpayments to contractors during the last three years from amounts ranging from some pies in certain cases to rupees ten. These have either been already recovered or are being adjusted against their respective accounts.

(b) Two instances of overpayment above Rs. 10 have been noticed in 1102.

(c) In one case an overpayment of Rs. 11—13—1 was made to contractor Mr. V. O. Chakko for certain "minor works in the Hill Palace". The amount will be shortly recovered from him. The other instance was in the case of the Peringottukara school work where contractor Mr. M. I. Vareed was paid Rs. 97 and odd in excess of what was due to him. The amount was recovered from him.

(d) In such cases it is not possible to fix responsibility on a particular individual as such overpayments were made on account of arithmetical errors in calculations which were handled by different officers.

Pay of teachers in Night schools.

116. Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Will the Government be pleased to state the present scale of salaries of the teachers in Night schools and whether any difference of pay is kept in the case of teachers of the same grade on account of any peculiar circumstances?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The scale of pay of the Assistants of Night schools is Rs. 6—½—9, but there is no separate fixed scale for the Headmasters. In Sirkar Night schools teachers of any of the Malayalam Primary grades are appointed as Headmasters and if they are fuli time-workers in the Night schools, they are allowed to draw the pay they would, from time to time be entitled to, had they continued in the

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Malayalam schools. Such teachers in Aided Night Schools are allowed the Primary 3rd grade pay, viz., Rs. 15 in the grant-in-aid bill. But if they are only part-time workers in Night schools, whether aided or under Sirkar management, they are allowed only a scale of Rs. 6—½—9 like the Assistants who also are mostly half-time workers.

Schools newly opened and abolished.

117. Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Will the Government be pleased to state the names of new schools both Sirkar and Aided that have been newly opened in the current school year and those that have been abolished in the State ?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Vide statement appended. (*Appendix VI.*)

All the schools mentioned therein are not aided, though they have been taken on the recognised list.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—In the list given as Appendix III, several schools are noted. May I know approximately how many of them have been aided?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Well, aid has been sanctioned to schools in one list. One other list has been sent to the Government and it has not been returned.

President.—Which?.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Of private schools.

President.—So far as Government are concerned Government have sanctioned the whole list but it has not been sent to the Director.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—But about ⅓ have not been recommended.

President.—Whatever was the recommendation of the Director it has been accepted. Probably you might not have recommended all.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—May I know whether the last school in the list has been recommended ?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—I do not think. It is one of the latest applications.

President.—Whatever that may be, the whole thing will be out soon. The Government and the Director had a long consultation on the matter, and so time was necessary to pass orders.

The Christian Chapel, Olarikkara.

118. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether there were any complaints against the location of a Christian Chapel at Olarikkara, Aranattukara Village, Trichur Taluk, very near the Olarikkara Bhadrakali temple by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood to the Diwan,

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